

Adrenalin rush

Geiselwind, located halfway between Würzburg and Nuremberg on the A3 Autobahn, claims to be the best fun park in Bavaria. Of course, the mandatory Bavarian beer tent with all the necessary victuals and good music is provided. A plate of Bavarian cheese or sausage and a stein of beer are available to refresh the visitor throughout the day.

Compressed air's for musical bears and friends of theirs

A visit to the Geiselwind theme park revealed some rather novel uses for compressed air that placed unusual demands on the compressed air system and its peripherals

Hourly from 11 a.m., the "Bavarian Bear Band" – life-sized animations – creates a high-spirited

atmosphere amusing the audience with their own hit parade laced with bantering dialogue and from time to time turning the tent upside down with blasts of rock 'n roll. These talented "bears" have pneumatic controls that move their limbs and faces in time with taped music. A KAESER rotary screw compressor, purring quietly away in a shed hidden discreetly behind the tent, provides the pneumatic power. The air it produces is dried to prevent condensation taking its toll on the bears' sensitive mechanical joints.

The astonishingly lifelike animations are among the park's major attractions. Their illusion of reality depends on smooth and continuous movement and a breakdown can easily shatter this illusion, which would be bad for the overall image. This puts top priority on reliability of the compressed air supplies for the "Bavarian Bear Band" and all the other imaginatively created animations, including the fascinating "T-Rex World".

A Kaeser compressor breathes life into Pterodactyls that spread their wings with the aid of springs, a chomping tyrannosaurus, triceratops babies breaking out of their

eggs under the dotting eyes of their head-swaying, triple-horned parents and other inhabitants of the effectively illuminated "Jurassic" hall.



KAESER compressors breathe life into bears and dinosaurs



Up, up and away

Although the fascination of the animated creatures contributes enormously to the park's attraction, the greatest excitement is created by

the recently opened "Boomerang" roller coaster, the only one in Germany where loops are looped both forwards AND backwards. Plant Manager Helmut Östheimer shares the excitement of the riders when he starts explaining the technical details of this masterly steel construction with two ramps 12-stories tall that rocket riders forwards and backwards through a disorienting trip of corkscrew turns and loops. A string of seven carriages

The air system that gives the bears their "blow"





The air brakes that bring the cars smoothly and safely to a stop

weighing six-tons with a load of 28 riders is hauled backwards to the top of the nearly vertical start ramp. When released, the carriages plummet down through the “station” at 80 km/h (50 mph). They turn and go through two corkscrews and a vertical loop, flipping upside down three times. Riders then head up another nearly vertical 12-story ramp where a chain grabs the carriages at the right height to pull them up the remaining few metres lost because of friction. The passengers have hardly time to sigh with relief when the whole trip begins again – in reverse. As the train flashes through the station for the second time to a

background of screeching and screaming riders, air brakes along the track come into play, slowing the train so that it climbs only a short way up the starting ramp and then rolls gently back into the station where the brakes are fully applied, indicating the end of the ride. The safety bars rise with a hiss of compressed air, releasing the 28 passengers – most of whom are still wondering how on earth they got there – to make room for the next group. The more extreme and exciting the ride the higher the demands placed on the brakes. “The Dutch roller coaster manufacturer had installed a piston compressor that left much to be desired with respect to reliability,” commented Helmut Östheimer. “We replaced this with a rotary screw compressor from KAESER, which, in my opinion is the only machine for the job. KAESER products are reliable and they have great service support, so that even dur-



Storage tanks for the air brakes

ing compressor servicing I don't have to worry about the roller coaster being out of action, and the same goes for the rest of the attractions relying on compressed air.”



Part of the Boomerang's stopping power

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